



KEY VOTE ALERT

TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

FROM: Rick Carfagna, Senior Vice President

RE: Upcoming Concurrence Vote on Amended House Bill 542

DATE: December 1, 2022

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce regularly tackles issues related to workforce development and business overregulation. Our members continually express grave concern with both the struggle to find qualified workers and with government regulations impeding their ability to grow. An example of this is in the private cosmetology school setting, where an individual is required to have 1,500 training hours before being able to sit for the state board examination. Many of these hours are spent in a classroom and not actually practicing the trade.

Amended House Bill 542 now includes an important amendment reducing the number of licensure training hours for cosmetologists and barbers to 1,000 each, as opposed to 1,500 and 1,800, respectively. The Ohio Chamber believes Am. HB 542 brings about common-sense reform that will translate into individuals achieving licensure more expeditiously without compromising safety or hygiene.

Additionally,, the Ohio Chamber recently unveiled its Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future, a constructive look at policy areas where Ohio can better capitalize on opportunities and position itself as a leader in the coming decade. Our "Business Friendliness" section specifically recommends the review and reduction of occupational licensing restrictions where applicable. This includes:

- Limiting licensing requirements to those necessary to protect the public (many occupations have educational requirements not necessary to promote public safety).
- Ensuring licensing requirements do not prevent qualified individuals from securing employment.
- Minimizing procedural burdens of acquiring licenses in terms of fees, complexity of requirements, processing time and paperwork.

Am. HB 542 aligns with the Chamber's long-term policy vision for the state and is an important first step in licensure reformation.

The Ohio Chamber supports Am. HB 542, and we urge you to vote "YES" on this bill. Please be aware that your vote on Am. HB 542 will be reflected in the Ohio Chamber's General Assembly Voting Record.

If you have any questions about this bill or the Ohio Chamber's position, please contact me at 614-629-0931 or rcarfagna@ohiochamber.com.